

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /057 W
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R 291500Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6843

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 1642

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: NEW MINIMUM WAGE SCALE RELEASED

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF MAY 1 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY, GON RELEASED OVER WEEKEND LONG-AWAITED NEW MINIMUM WAGE SCALE. WORKERS IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES WERE GIVEN INCREASES RANGING FROM 7 - 23 PCT WITH VARIATIONS IN DIFFERENT ZONES OF THE COUNTRY. LARGEST HIKE (23 PCT) WENT TO DOMESTIC WORKERS IN MANAGUA WHO ARE NOW ENTITLED TO US\$29.14 PER MONTH WITH FOOD AND LODGING. THE LARGEST LABOR GROUP - FARM LABORERS OUTSIDE MANAGUA - RECEIVED SMALLEST BOOST (7 PCT) AND WILL NOW BE LEGALLY ENTITLED TO US\$.29 PER HOUR.

2. THE NEW SCALE REPLACES SEPTEMBER 1973 RATES AND WILL TAKE EFFECT MAY 1. LABOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT HAILED NEW MINIMUM WAGE RATES AS SECOND HIGHEST IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

3. FOLLOWING ARE NEW HOURLY MINIMUM WAGE RATES FOR NATIONAL DISTRICT (MANAGUA):

INCREASED

GENERAL WORKERS US\$.29 21 PCT

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INDUSTRIAL WORKERS US\$.31 16 PCT

FARM WORKERS US\$.21 11 PCT

ON BASIS OF 48 HOUR WEEK, INDUSTRIAL WORKER IN MANAGUA WILL BE ENTITLED TO EARN MINIMUM OF US\$13.92 PER WEEK. COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM WAGE IS GENERALLY GOOD IN URBAN AREAS, HOWEVER, MANY WORKERS IN RURAL AREAS WHERE ENFORCEMENT IS MORE LAX WILL NEVER SEE THE US\$9.94 PER WEEK WHICH THEY WILL BE ENTITLED TO AFTER MAY 1.

4. COMMENT: SIZABLE INCREASES IN MINIMUM WAGE REFLECT GON INTEREST IN KEEPING INITIATIVE FROM LEFTIST UNIONS WHICH GAVE IT SUCH PROBLEMS IN 1973-1974. GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED MAY DAY RALLY PROMISES TO BE UNUSUALLY LARGE AFFAIR, AND MINIMUM WAGE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL SERVE AS FITTING SHOWPIECE WHEN PRESIDENT SOMOZA ADDRESSES THAT GATHERING.
SHELTON

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Message Attributes

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